

**IDEA/ICC
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 6, 2008
HELD VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING**

PRESENT

Lori Wentz
Alison Dollar
Kyle Edgerton
Elaine LaPante
Edna Keller
Missi Baranko
Jill Staudinger
Shawnda Ereth
Karla Kessel
Carrie Gross
Rita Weisz
Elroy Burkle
Linda Jagielo
Laura Larson
Bob Rutten
Katherine Barchenger
Carol Jabz
Colette Perkins
Deb Balsdon
Tammy Gallup-Millner

Laura Larson provided her family story.

Introductions were made.

TOPIC: MEMBER ISSUES

DISCUSSION/ACTION:

- Jeanette Kolberg retired in December.
- Bob Rutten's name has been submitted to replace Jeanette's as an appointee to the NDICC
- Tammy Gallup-Millner asked that membership lists for the IDEA and ICC be put together.

TOPIC: ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

DISCUSSION/ACTION:

In Part C - Early Intervention, staff are using a tool developed through Oregon to assess children entering early intervention, annually, and when they exit.

- There were 2 children from 7/1/06 to 6/30/07 who had both an entry and an exit assessment and had been in services for at least 6 months. The state anticipates that there will be adequate data in the upcoming year. One point made is that North Dakota is #1 in the nation for identifying children under the age of 1 using the narrow eligibility standards which leaves a smaller pool of children who would have both an entrance and exit assessment. Deb reported that she is working with Oregon on the reliability and validity of the assessment tool.

In Part B - Alison stated that for Indicator #7 there will be training conducted statewide for the special education units.

- The Part B task force of Early Childhood Outcome looked at research from other states and decided on what they wanted to use in our state.

For measuring family outcomes, Part C is currently mailing out surveys to all families. Part C has had had a 50% return rate.

- Part C staff have broken the data down across ages, race, ethnicity, and geographically. This provided some interesting data to consider. Part C is presently considering the addition of an online approach for the survey.

For measuring parent involvement in Part B - It is a big shift for schools to gather this information. The data analysis information will soon be available for families and policymakers. It is a team effort of the parent and team if the child is making progress.

Regional Determinations and Local Program Determinations

- In Part C, once the targets are set we need to do reporting on local programs.

Transition at Age 3:

- For Part B Indicator #12 - the Department of Public Instruction sent information to the local special

education unit directors to verify the information that was received from Part C.

- For those school districts that were determined to be out of compliance, DPI has conducted training.
- Part B must look at all children who are transitioning out of Part C, not just those eligible into Part B.
- Part C needs to have a plan developed when the child turns 2 yr., 9 mo.
- Joint guidelines have been developed by DPI and DD and training has been conducted.
- Part B is seeing an increase in the percentage of children eligible for special education and related services and they are in the process of analyzing this information.

TOPIC: EARLY LEARNING GUIDELINES UPDATE

DISCUSSION/ACTION:

- The Guidelines are in draft form.
- Need an introduction to the 8 domain areas.
- Input has been received from several groups.
- Would like to have out by April.
- The Guidelines will be part of a pdf file.
- North Dakota will adopt the MN Birth to 3 Early Guidelines.
- The MN Core Competencies have been adopted.

TOPIC: CURRENT AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER ACTIVITIES

DISCUSSION/ACTION:

- The Red River Valley Asperger Network and the Autism Society of North Dakota were invited to present information at the joint meeting of the ICC and the IDEA advisory committee meeting last September.
- John Porter from the DPI Office of Special Education reported that a team from North Dakota was sent to a national conference in Ohio last fall.
- The team was made up of two individuals representing Part B and three individuals representing Part C.
- John met with this team in November.

- National teacher competencies were discussed and John noted that these will be available on the website.
- The idea of the state team was to build capacity and assist with identification of children and assisting with planning. The team would be available statewide.
- Others being considered for the team include, but are not limited to: a physician, psychologist, special education personnel, including a local director, coordinator(s), and therapist(s), social worker, adaptive technology specialist, and a behavior specialist.
- A form requesting assistance could be completed at the local level and sent to the state team. It would be determined who would provide consultation and actually go onsite to meet with the local team.
- The ND Center for Persons with Disabilities (NDCPD) received federal funding for an autism center to be based in Minot. The new center will receive \$400,000 a year for the next two years.
- John and Deb met with Dr. Brent Askvig, the assistant director of the NDCPD.
- The NDCPD center will be primarily focusing on school age children as the funding doesn't carry down to birth to 3.
- John and Deb want to look at the entire age range.
- The Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center reported that ten states use the term ASD and the rest use the label of autism when determining eligibility for Part B services. Two states use ASD within the definition of autism.
- The current state autism guidelines cover Part B and C.
- Part C needs to wait until the regulations are finalized.
- There is also a State Review Team, who reviews individual cases when local programs run into road blocks.
- There is a symposium on ASD on March 17 at Minot State University.
- The Early Intervention Technical Assistance Project has been conducting training on autism for the early intervention/DD case management staff.

- Deb is reviewing waivers from 6 states that serve children with autism.
- These waivers are limited to 3 years and go up to the ages 6 to 9.
- There are frequent assessments to measure progress and if no progress within 6 months, you need to change the program.
- On March 19 there is training in Fargo on Aspergers/"High Functioning" Autism.
- The Department of Human Services is looking putting together an Optional Adjustment Request for the next Legislative Session to include a Waiver on Autism.
- Members suggested rotating members on the North Dakota team.
- The ND Family Based Workshop in Fargo in April has sessions on autism.
- Tammy stated that she met with some Fargo doctors and directed them to the NDCPD program.
- There is a need to get information to parents but also to teachers on research based training on autism and strategies that work.
- At the DD/EI Training Conference we want to bring in someone from CO looking at cognitive levels.

TOPIC: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

DISCUSSION/ACTION:

- Bob discussed what is occurring regarding the MOU with Head Start.
- DPI has an interagency agreement with ND Vocational Rehabilitation on employment of young persons with disability with Vocational Rehabilitation, and a separate MOU with the Division of Juvenile Services regarding adjudicated youth.
- There is current exploration of developing a broader MOU regarding public schools that serve young children and Head Start centers.
- DPI received samples from other states from Linda Rorman of the state Head Start office. DPI also requested a document search from the Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center.
- DPI has contacted local school administrators and received a variety of responses and also received some examples of current local agreements.

- Bob said that he and Linda Rorman are currently looking closely at the agreement in existence with South Dakota. Bob was interested in that agreement because of the references to North Dakota due to the Standing Rock Reservation that straddles the North and South Dakota border.

By December 2008 we intend to have this completed and reviewed by the Council.

TOPIC: PATHFINDERS CONFERENCE DISCUSSION/ACTION:

- The annual Pathfinder Conference is May 2 & 3 in Minot.
- There is talk of expanding to May 1 with a presentation on alternate dispute resolution.
- Some of the firm topics are: parents and professionals response to intervention; presentation on national partnership schools parent involvement the key to student achievement; discover your negotiating personality; representation from the Independent Living Center; a presentation by DPI on the new web-based special education case management system; Family Voices of North Dakota talking about health issues and IEPs; presentation on family support network.
- They are working on details of being able to film the conference.
- Bob will talk to the Pathfinders Conference Planning Committee about getting the conference information out to the public.
- Part C will be putting some funding in to the Pathfinders Conference.
- The Family Connections Conference will not occur in June.

TOPIC: 2008 MEETING DATES AND SITES
DISCUSSION/ACTION:

- June 4 - IDEA; June 5 - IDEA and ICC; June 6 - ICC. This will be an "in-person meeting"
- Sept 10 - IDEA; Sept 11 - IDEA and ICC; Sept 12 - ICC. This will be an "in-person meeting"

- Dec 3 - IDEA; Dec 4 - IDEA and ICC; Dec 5 - ICC.
This will be held via video conferencing statewide.

TOPIC: TOPICS FOR JUNE MEETING

DISCUSSION/ACTION:

- Update on MOU
- Early Learning Guidelines - should be finalized
- Autism Update